

Poster

Title: Zika virus: a new challenge for social inclusion

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Main focus: Both research and practice/Congenital deafblindness

Abstract: School inclusion in Brazil began in 2008, in these nine years of mainstream schools open for the access and participation of students with disabilities it was possible to expand and bring more opportunities to people with deafblindness access and participate in different kinds of educational settings: from early childhood educational services, preschool, elementary and secondary school, and even university levels, with the support services of Specialized Educational Services, teacher training and multifunction classrooms, including education at home settings when needed.

In this scenario it was possible to achieve and pass laws that organize and support the educational services for deafblind people, for example, the creation of a new job in Brazil of guide-interpreters and intervenors that help deafblind students access the information, have an active participation and stay in school. These services have expanded the opportunities of social interaction and access to different settings and environments.

Nowadays, in Brazil, we can say there is inclusion of many deafblind students and students with multiple sensory disabilities. According to general data of the school census recorded in 2015 by the agency INEP National Institution of Educational Studies and Research, there is an estimated number of students with disabilities out of which about 1,5% may present deafblindness and some 10% may present multiple disabilities.

The actual figures will be presented during the workshop, for instance, regarding the children from birth to 5 years old enrolled in day care centers and kindergarten there is an estimate number of 675 deafblind children and 2250 children with multiple disabilities. But since 2015 a new challenge has been put before Education in Brazil to maintain and give opportunity to expand inclusion and social interaction of students with deafblindness and multiple sensory disabilities: the children who suffer disabilities and frail health from the Zika virus Syndrome.

Specially the Northeast Region where the states of Pernambuco, Bahia and Alagoas are the most affected, there is today an average of 4000 cases identified and the challenge now lays on train professionals who work in the day care centers and kindergartens to understand how to best educate this great number of children, there is much still to learn and research is taking place as we write this abstract, many of which have described different associations of health problems besides visual and hearing impairments in many of the children.

This population will need more resources and new governmental actions, researches in the health and educational fields in order to ensure their full inclusion.